

REMARKS

I. Introduction

The Office Action of April 27, 2010 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 20-38 were previously pending in this application. The present Amendment amends independent claim 20 and adds new claim 39 in accordance with the originally-filed specification and figures. No new matter has been added. In addition, claim 24 has been canceled by the present Amendment. Accordingly, claims 20-23 and 25-39 are currently pending, and claims 20 and 39 are in independent form. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 20-34 and 36-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,687,487 to Mosebrook et al. (hereinafter "the Mosebrook patent"). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

As defined by amended independent claim 20, the present invention is directed to a remotely controllable switch unit for switching the mains inside an electrical installation. The switch unit includes: an electrically controllable switch; a control circuit for controlling the switch; and a receiver coupled to the control circuit for receiving wireless signals. The switch unit is adapted for mounting in a housing of a wall socket and is provided with a female part of the wall socket such that the wall socket is configured to receive a plug of an electrical device.

The Mosebrook patent is directed to a radio frequency controlled lighting control system that is connected into a building's existing hardwired electrical system (10). The system includes a master control device (20) having a plurality of controls and status indicators (22) which control various lamps assigned to the various control buttons. The master device (20) includes an antenna (24) for receiving and transmitting radio frequency signals and plugs into a wall outlet (25) for power via an AC transformer (26). A repeater (40) is also provided to help insure that every component of the system will receive the RF communication signals for control

purposes. At least one lighting control device (50) is provided which is capable of manual actuation via a manual control button (52), but which is also capable of receiving radio frequency signals from the master unit (20) or repeater (40), to control the status of a lamp (54). In addition, the lighting control device (50) is capable of transmitting radio frequency signals to the repeater (40) and master unit (20) to inform the master unit (20) of the status of the affected lamps (54). The lighting control device (50) may include a dimmer and a plurality of status indicating devices, for example, light emitting diodes (56), which indicate the intensity setting of the lamp (54) to the user. In addition, the lighting control device (50) includes a means (58) for setting the intensity level (*see* FIG. 1).

The control unit disclosed in the Mosebrook patent is adapted to regulate the flow of electrical energy to a light source under the control of a separate controller via a wireless connection. This document only discloses the use for controlling the energy flow to a lamp connected to the control unit **via a fixed electrical connection**. The present invention as defined by independent claim 20 does not only relate to this situation but also to a situation where the lamp is connected to the controller via a flexible wire, as is sometimes the case for table or floor lamps. This implies that the control unit is configured to receive a plug of such a flexible wire.

Accordingly, the Mosebrook patent does not teach or suggest that the switch unit is adapted for mounting in a housing of a wall socket as required by independent claim 20. The Examiner contends that this feature is disclosed in the Mosebrook patent at column 3, line 20 to column 4, line 5 and column 5, lines 60-67. However, these portions of the Mosebrook patent merely describe a lighting control system that includes a switch that can be remotely controlled using radio frequency signals from a control device. There is no teaching or suggestion in the Mosebrook patent that the lighting control device or switches disclosed therein are mounted within a housing of a wall socket. At best, the Mosebrook patent describes that the control device fits into a standard electrical wall box (*see* column 4, lines 1-5 of the Mosebrook patent).

In order to clarify this difference between the Mosebrook patent and the invention as defined by independent claim 20, independent claim 20 has been amended to further define the wall socket as being configured to receive a plug of an electrical device. There is no teaching or suggestion of such a feature in the Mosebrook patent as the control system of the Mosebrook

patent is only described in relation to fixed electrical connections as described hereinabove.

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant believes that the subject matter of amended independent claim 20 is not anticipated by the Mosebrook patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 are respectfully requested.

Claims 21-23, 25-34, and 36-38 depend from and add further limitations to amended independent claim 20 or a subsequent dependent claim and are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claim 20. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21-23, 25-34, and 36-38 are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over the Mosebrook patent in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0119187 to Newman, Jr. (hereinafter "the Newman publication"). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections.

Claim 35 depends from and adds further limitations to amended independent claim 20. The Mosebrook patent was discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claim 20. The Newman publication is directed to an electronic control system, and is provided by the Examiner as allegedly disclosing a switch unit that includes a power supply circuit adapted to connect a capacitor to the mains for only a short period of time after the zero passage of the mains. However, this reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Mosebrook patent. Therefore, claim 35 is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claim 20. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 35 are respectfully requested.

IV. New Claim

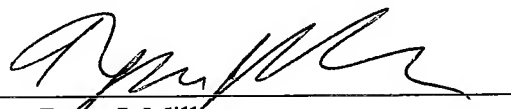
New claim 39 has been added by this Amendment. New claim 39 is in independent form. No new matter has been added. Support for this claim can be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. This claim requires the switch unit to be provided

with a dimmer and that the control unit is adapted to sense the nature of the load connected to the female part of the wall socket and block the dimming function in certain situations. The Mosebrook patent, whether considered alone or in combination with the Newman publication, does not teach or suggest such a feature. The Examiner relies on column 3, lines 48-53 and column 11, lines 41-60 of the Mosebrook patent as disclosing this feature. However, these portions of the Mosebrook patent merely describe two-way communication between the lighting control device (50) and the master control unit (20) and provide no teaching or suggestion of blocking a dimming feature of a switch unit. Accordingly, new claim 39 is also believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

VI. Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action of April 27, 2010 and allowance of pending claims 20-23 and 25-39. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss the application in further detail, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at 412-471-8815.

Respectfully submitted,
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